

## SINGING SERGEANTS SUMMARY

With the holidays a fading memory and a two-week leave just behind us, The Singing Sergeants launch excitedly into 1999. December was one of our busiest on record with more than 20 performances in 23 days! Our ever-popular holiday concerts were a rousing success. Additionally, our other performances at the White House, the Pentagon, the quarters of top military officials and other venues in the Washington, D.C. area proved to be just as crowd-pleasing.



*A group from The Singing Sergeants in traditional "Dickens" costumes at a holiday performance in the home of Chief of Staff of the Air Force General Michael E. Ryan*

In January, we travel to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware to provide entertainment for the 436<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Awards Banquet. Toward the end of the month, we will also perform for the 11<sup>th</sup> Wing's Honorary Commanders Dinner. The Singing Sergeants are also planning a "mini-tour" from January 29 through February 1 of Virginia and North Carolina. Our first stop, on January 29, will be at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va. Radford University will be the site of our second concert on January 30 in Radford, Va. On January 31, we will perform at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Our final concert on this "mini-tour" will be on February 1 at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C. These concerts are free and open to the public, and tickets are not required. Please contact the music department of these universities or The Singing Sergeants' office at (202) 767-5665 to receive more information about these performances. If you live in or near these areas, we hope you will join us for a memorable night of choral music.

In February, we start our fabulous Guest Artist Series. Please contact the Band's concert line, (202) 767-5658, for up-to-the-minute information regarding these exciting concerts. Also in February, we look forward to sending representatives to the American Choral Directors Association national convention in Chicago and the Texas Music Educators Association convention in San Antonio. We are using these trips partly for recruitment purposes in preparation for our upcoming auditions on March 8. We currently have openings for alto, tenor and bass. If you or someone you know is interested in auditioning for The Singing Sergeants, please contact our auditions representative, MSgt Angela Williams, at (202) 767-5665.

We would like to extend wholehearted congratulations to SMSgt David Nokes, as he received the highest honor of any graduate of his Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy class. In October, Sergeant Nokes was chosen as the winner of the John Levitow Award, named for the lowest ranking airmen ever to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. Congratulations Dave! Also, we bid a belated farewell to MSgt Alex Helsabeck who separated from the Air Force in November. His phenomenal talent and wonderful spirit are already sorely missed.

—MSgt Jennifer Henley

## CHAMBER PLAYERS HAPPENINGS

The USAF Band Chamber Players concert series continues to delight audiences with its ever-expanding range of venues and eclectic programming. In addition to the Anderson House and Montgomery College series, Charles County Community College is now a regular location, and Silver Wings' Barnstormers unit did a holiday show at the Gaithersburg Library. Particularly noteworthy was TSgt Curt Christensen's recital of baroque trumpet and organ music, which attracted our first standing-room-only audience at Montgomery College. Assisted by The Concert Band's trumpet section and MSgt Anthony Kirkland, MSgt Marek Vastek and TSgt Erica Kadison, his performance of Altenberg's "Concerto for Seven Trumpets and Tympani," the rousing display of virtuosity brought the audience to their feet.

Coming events will hopefully sustain the excitement. Look for recitals at Montgomery College by trumpeter

TSgt Robert McConnell on February 9, soprano TSgt Robin Askew on February 23, and bassist MSgt William Hones on March 9. The Anderson House series resumes on January 27 with a harp recital by TSgt Eric Sabatino, and continues on the second and fourth Wednesdays monthly through May.

As always, thanks go to our sponsors Miss Katherine Betts, of The Society of the Cincinnati, Mr. Rick Ensminger of Montgomery College, Mr. John Maerhofer of Charles County Community College and Ms. Karen Logsdon of the Gaithersburg Public Library. Behind the scenes at The USAF Chamber Players, MSgt Clarence Mitchell puts people and places together, MSgt Todd Hanson records the performances, and MSgt Gil Corella comes through with whatever else is needed. Bravo!

—MSgt William Hones